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they prescribe and give alcohol baths. In one case to which I was called, a babe was unconsciously drunk from an alcohol bath which a nurse had prescribed. Again I have found that nurses advise the prospective mother to have a bottle of brandy in her obstetric outfit."

E. BERTHA BRADLEY, R.N.

[It goes without saying, in the JOURNAL and everywhere, that no properly trained nurse uses medication of any kind without instruction from the physician, unless she is so familiar with his methods that she knows she is privileged to use certain remedies without consulting him each time.—EDITOR.]

NECESSITY FOR STATE REGISTRATION

DEAR EDITOR: I would not care to be without this valuable magazine; it brings light to many, keeps us informed as to what our sisters are doing in distant parts, also enlarges our experience by hints and side lights thrown on the nursing profession.

Why do so many nurses disclaim the necessity for state registration? Only a few days ago I called at the office of the nurses' registry, and the gentleman in charge threw back his head with a flourish, saying, "State registration for nurses does not amount to anything, isn't worth a cent," and this registry is considered the most flourishing and the best conducted in the city. I have had my name in this registry a year or more and have received a call but once and then was absent on another case. I really would like to see and hear of nurses looking forward to state registration with more vim.

R. L. S.

[Where nurses permit their registries to be conducted by men or women whose interest in nursing affairs is only commercial, we may expect to find state registration and every movement for nursing progress being discounted upon every occasion.—EDITOR.]

THE EXPENSE OF CONVENTIONS

DEAR EDITOR: Perhaps it will never fall to our lot again to be so royally entertained, as those happy mortals were who attended the congress of nurses in London, but the editorial in the October JOURNAL touched lightly on the matter of the extra expense incurred in the presentation of flowers. We were all glad to join, but it *was* an expense, and those same delightful entertainments also called for good clothes, and many regretted that they had not come better prepared, and made up their minds not to be caught napping in that respect again. But it was the one thing only that we felt inclined to criticize, the need for greater simplicity. The nurse in private duty is not equipped for elaborate ceremonies, and yet is unwilling to submit to being less well gowned than those she expects to meet, and so, though travelling as a tourist, she will calculate to include one or more evening gowns, as well as another suitable for an afternoon reception. The little French nurses, as well as the Swedish contingent, were quite to be envied in their national costumes, which distinguished them at all times and carried them everywhere. We appreciate being entertained, but we need to combine it with greater simplicity, and we are in hearty agreement that cigarettes are better noted by their absence at any assemblage of nurses. "ONE OF THE HAPPY MORTALS."